

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 19, 2005

The Honorable John Warner
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Carl Levin
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Colleagues:

We respectfully ask that as the Senate Armed Services Committee proceeds to floor consideration of S. 1042, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, that the manager's package include language to extend the authorization of the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2003.

In order to ensure members of the armed services maintain their eligibility for Federal student assistance programs under the Higher Education Act, the HEROS Act permits the Secretary of Education to waive a number of statutory or regulatory requirements on behalf of members of the armed services in times of war, military operation, or national emergency.

In order to extend the program, we ask that the following language be included at the appropriate place in the Committee's reported bill:


Section 6 of the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2003 (20 U.S.C. 1070, note) is amended by striking 'September 30, 2005' and inserting 'September 30, 2007'

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael B. Enzi
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor and Pensions



Edward M. Kennedy
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health,
Education Labor and Pensions